

## ***SECCS December 2005 15<sup>th</sup> EditionP***

### **A Fond Farewell to ELLEN BUCHANAN:**

The end of November 2005 brings the retirement of Ellen Buchanan, the co-creator of the California State Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems project. Ellen had a 25 year, stellar career with the State of California, most recently at the State Department of Health Services. Because of Ellen's academic training as a dietician and her involvement in Nutritional Programs in many parts of the state, she brought to the project direct service experience working with families and young children and an incredible knowledge of existing systems in the state. Ellen's commitment to integration of services to enhance outcomes for children stems from her multitude of experiences working with local health facilities, the Department of Social Services and the Dept. of Health Services. Many of the successes of the first 18 months of the California ECCS project can be attributed to Ellen's many personal associations and her ability to build on the trusting and lasting relationships she has developed over her years in the field. Ellen drafted the original proposal to HRSA (Health Resources Services Agency) and has been the primary author of the subsequent reports to Washington, D.C.

There is no way to adequately thank Ellen for her contributions to the children of California. It has been a personal pleasure for me to learn from Ellen and to take advantage of her vast knowledge of the systems in California. The project has achieved so much because of Ellen's diligence, candor, sense of humor and her commitment to excellence.

Ellen, I speak for all involved with California ECCS, to wish you the very best in your retirement. As Ellen settles into the splendor and serenity of rural Washington State, just know that the children and future generations in California are better off because of your contributions.

### **Update of California SECCS Proposal for Implementation:**

There has been a delay in the federal review of California's proposal for implementation. Given the enormity of the scope of the SECCS project and the limited funding, the State Department of Health Services is recommending that the focus be implementing goals incrementally, starting with the following two goals: 1) Universal application system to provide funding for screening and care for children without health insurance. This will also involve identification of current funding sources for screening; 2) Early identification and screening of children birth to five years. As a result, a revised proposal will be submitted for federal approval in the near future, with a decision expected in early 2006.

This month's exciting new project to highlight is the **STATE INTERAGENCY TEAM (SIT)**.

Founded in 2003, the **State Interagency Team** is at the helm of efforts to better coordinate services and strategies for children and families in California. Comprised of deputy directors from 10 state agencies and departments, this group provides innovative leadership and guidance to facilitate county implementation of child welfare improvements. Areas of focus include:

- Escalating policy and programmatic issues to senior leadership levels so that services can be better coordinated and obstacles removed

- Maximizing funding for services that support children and families
- Removing systemic and regulatory barriers
- Ensuring that policies, accountability systems and planning are outcome based
- Sharing information and data

State agencies and departments represented on the State Interagency Team include the Departments of Social Services, Education, Health, Mental Health, Alcohol and Drug Programs, Developmental Services and Employment Development, as well as the Attorney General's Office, the California First Five Commission and the California Workforce Investment Board.

If you are **not** interested in receiving future updates from the SECCS project, please email me back and I will remove your name. On the other hand, if you are interested in adding additional folks you think would benefit from the updates, please let me know and I will add their names. Your comments and suggestions are appreciated. Please feel free to correspond with me by email [wewayne@kern.org](mailto:wewayne@kern.org) or telephone 916 552-8742 or 661 204-8840.

Visit the SECCS website at: <http://www.mch.dhs.ca.gov/programs/seccsfacts.htm>